



DESTINATION EXCELLENCE

Learning Inside Out

To prepare our students for lifelong success, Rhode Island is acting across the board to put students first, promote excellence in learning and build equity into all we do. We call it *Destination Excellence* – and building outdoor classrooms across the state is one part of this effort.

“For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider, every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver.”

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

LET’S GET BACK TO NATURE

Outdoor education is a powerful tool that all schools can use to deliver for their students. Learning outside...

- Improves student morale and builds a sense of community
- Connects students to nature
- Teaches respect for the environment
- Fosters a sense of environmental stewardship
- Creates tranquil spaces that improve learning and creativity

Research shows that teachers report better behavior, improved social interactions and fewer disciplinary issues when students learn outdoors.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

RIDE has set an ambitious goal to create an outdoor classroom at 70 schools in the state by August 2024.

- We provide \$7.5M in SBA Capital Funds to support this effort. Selected projects will receive 100% reimbursement.
- This competitive grant will provide each selected school with an award up to \$100,000.
- A powerful *Equity Boost* will provide additional funding for Central Falls, Providence, Pawtucket, West Warwick and Woonsocket.
- RIDE will work with vendors to cut the procurement red tape – with a special focus on opportunities for minority-owned businesses.



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education

Learn more at www.ride.ri.gov/InsideOut
or email us at SBACapitalFund@ride.ri.gov

DESTINATION EXCELLENCE